

Viewpoints

Smoke alert issued

This month, and in September and November, employees of the City of Raeford will be conducting smoke tests in the sewer lines in the Jones Hill and High School Road areas.

Officials are warning citizens not to be alarmed. Residents are encouraged not to worry if smoke begins curling from toilet bowls and out of sink drains. One need not fear, it is only the local municipal worker down below checking for leaks.

Smoke bombs will be put in the sewer to help pinpoint places where lines need repairing to prevent ground water from seeping into the system.

Raeford's sewer system is treating more water than is being purchased by water customers, and city officials want to find out why. The smoke tests will help.

However, sometimes the smoke will back up into houses from the main sewer line. Uninformed residents might think their toilets are on fire, city officials warn.

In Colorado, gasoline leaked into a sewer system in a residential section near Denver. Fumes seeped through pipes into homes.

Some of the Colorado residents were set back after small explosions occurred when lighted cigarettes were tossed into toilets.

Raeford sewer customers are lucky. We only have to worry about a little smoke.

All those who use the city sewer system should keep a close watch on drains for smoke until December, when the air will clear.

NC Turkey Festival needs community help

On September 21, Hoke County could get on the map if the entire community gets involved when the first North Carolina Turkey Festival moves into full swing on Main Street in Raeford.

Festival promoters are anticipating crowds of around 30,000 fun seekers, tuning in for continuous music, food, arts and crafts and entertainment on the final day of the three-day event.

The Turkey Festival, which is considered a statewide event, is being advertised on billboards, radio, national and local television and in newspapers and magazines.

Last Friday, thanks to the efforts of Chamber of Commerce Executive Secretary Beverly Pasternak, the festival committee, the House of Raeford and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the word about Hoke County and Raeford was aired nationwide by weatherman Willard Scott on the NBC Today Show.

Further efforts are being made to attract coverage from CBS, PBS, ABC, TBS and MTV, as well as from North Carolina television stations.

North Carolina and the turkey industry will prosper as a result of the promotion and the festival, but Hoke County will be the real beneficiary.

Although Hoke County has been asked to do the least financially of all those who will reap the benefits, local residents have the burdensome responsibility of working to make the festival a success.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed for working in booths on festival day, helping with the parade, aiding with crowd control, setting up before and cleaning up afterwards.

Hoke County needs an uplifting fun event like the North Carolina Turkey Festival.

The festival committee and the Chamber need all the help they can get.

Anyone interested in working during, before and after the festival should call the Chamber of Commerce at 875-5929 and sign up to help.

The next festival committee meeting will be held on August 15 at the Hoke County Library at 7 p.m.



Time is 'now' for Hoke County

As I get older I am not nearly as interested in controversy as I once was. In my column writing I have stayed away from controversial issues, except in a few situations in which I felt very strongly.

In the 19 years I have been a part of Hoke County I have not seen a time there has been a greater push by so many fine people to do something about the quality of life in the county. If the opportunity to move our county forward is not fully supported by the people, it will be time for us to close shop. I personally feel the opportunity will not present itself again.

For any individual in Hoke County, black, white or Indian, to say he is satisfied with conditions as they exist is to say I want unemployment of 11%, a low tax base, undesirable school facilities and a staggering social service roll. A person satisfied with those situations doesn't need to live in the county. He needs to be in jail.

Children and their education is one of my great concerns. It is now time to do something about the



school facilities. It matters not how I or any citizen feel about the decisions of the board of education. Lack of cooperation on the part of either the board of education or the county commissioners must be a minute point at this stage of the game. Any member of either board who lets his personal feelings interfere with the good of children should do the public a favor and resign. Our children have a right to expect, and their parents have a right to demand, the best education a citizenry can provide. Preaching it was good enough for my father, and it was good enough for me, therefore it is good enough for you, is as narrow-minded as saying we are isolated from the world.

Boards of education and county commissioners have a tough job. Those who serve should have the gratitude of the public. However, in serving, these boards should lay aside politics and get down to the brass tacks of what is the foundation for growth.

In turn, they should support it financially and vocally.

If this causes some folks unhappiness then so be it. Any situation given time will condemn the decisions made or confirm the wisdom of those decisions.

Doing nothing will not be judged by time, it will be judged by the decaying which follows.

Our time of decision is now. Waiting until next year will not only compound the problem, it may become impossible to solve.

I doubt anyone in the seat of authority would want the responsibility of saying to those who follow; "we chose failure as our course of action. Indifference was at the top of our agenda. Neglect was the theme of our administration."

Letter To The Editor

Poultry industry not represented

To the Editor:
Much has been made of the fact that one of the new members of the North Carolina Board of Agriculture is a Canadian citizen. But nationality is not the issue. Adequate representation of the state's agricultural interests is the issue. The law establishing this policy making body is silent on citizenship; it simply requires that members "shall be practical farmers engaged in their profession." At least one member must be "a

practical poultryman to represent the poultry interests of the state."

Governor Martin's recent appointees to the Board of Agriculture include David B. Cuddy, president of Cuddy Farms, Inc., and Edgar M. Johnson, president of the House of Raeford Farms, Inc. Is this the Governor's idea of "practical poultrymen?" These individuals represent two of the poultry industry's largest corporate integrators.

Over 2,000 working farmers produce broilers and turkeys under contract to corporate integrators in North Carolina. But the "growers" aren't allowed to speak

for themselves on the Board of Agriculture.

North Carolina's poultry farmers were formerly represented by the vice-president of Holly Farms, the nation's second largest broiler processor.

Now Governor Martin has doubled industry representation and left working poultry farmers out in the dark. Our contract growers deserve a voice in North Carolina agriculture, not another slap in the face.

Sincerely,
Allen Spalt
Research Associate
Rural Advancement Fund
Pittsboro

NEWS ITEM: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS STOPS PRINTING 'PLAYBOY' FOR THE BLIND



Bag assembly becomes long unnerving late night experience

My wife has been concerned about the grass I leave all over the lawn each time I mow it.

"You are supposed to rake those clippings up," she said, as she dragged me around the yard by the ear, pointing out small mounds of dismembered blades.

"They'll turn brown and kill the grass underneath," she added, rubbing my nose in the piles.

I spend most of the winter trying to avoid gathering leaves, and I am not about to start raking clippings during the summer.

When the first leaves begin to fall and cover our yard, I start working on routine excuses, and if I am clever enough, I can put off raking until some deserving teenager will arrive and offer to do the work for a modest fee.

In the summer, it is different. Not only are the hot hazy afternoons barren of rake-toting youth, but I also can find no excuses to keep me from removing the grass clippings.

Because of my aversion to raking, I bought a "grass bag" to attach to the side of the mower.

"It will do it all," the cheery salesman said, assuring me that I would never have to rake clippings again.

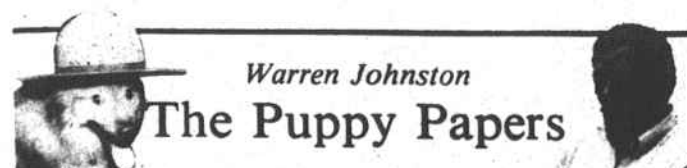
"You can even use it for leaves in winter," he added.

With the recent rains, our grass was getting up pretty high, and some of the neighbors were beginning to notice.

"Your grass is coming right along," they said, wading through our yard in knee-high vegetation.

I knew I could delay cutting no longer. On a sunny afternoon, I broke out the box with my new grass bag. I was determined to get the lawn mowed before dark.

"Grass bag must be assembled," the outside of the box said. "This won't slow me down," I said to myself.



Mechanical ability has never been a strong suit, but I have never run from it. I've helped construct a house or two, and I even built a stereo receiver once. This grass bag assembly would be a snap, I thought.

A naked nylon grass bag just by itself is a confusing thing to behold, but when a few pipes and a whole pile of screws are added, it is overwhelming.

I was forced to consult the enclosed paper called "Instruction Sheet Model No. 24065."

Things went fairly well the first hour as I tiptoed quickly through steps 1, 2 and 3.

Twenty-seven pieces were assembled into 12. I still had a large pile of synthetic material which the instructions alleged would become a grass bag attached to my mower after step 10.

"Step 4: Slide the grass bag onto one side of the support tube as shown in figure 4 and 5. Make sure all the grass bag is on one side of the support tube before covering the remaining portion of the support tube," the instructions said.

I knew exactly what the directions meant. I completed the task in minutes. I was optimistic. There was still plenty of light. I could mow the grass before dark.

In step 6, I was supposed to attach the "elastic opening on the grass bag" to the "frame assembly" with a bolt placed through a metal eyelet.

I twisted and turned the elastic opening. The eyelet was on the opposite side from the hole for the screw.

I had the grass bag on backwards. I retraced my steps and went back to steps 4 and 5.

After going through the process again and making sure I had the bag on in the right direction, I progressed to step 6.

The bag was on upside down. I went back to step 4.

During the third hour of hopping back and fourth in the void that existed between step 4 and step 6, it began to get dark. I turned on the outside lights and rethreaded the bag onto the metal rod.

About 9:30 p.m., the bag was still backwards. I called my wife from inside the house and begged for help.

I explained the problem and told her how to achieve the solution. She rebuffed an opportunity to look at the instructions.

The bag was defective and had been sewn backwards, I told her, and I went into the house for a beer to ease my frustrations.

When I returned moments later, the grass catcher was on the mower.

"There was nothing to it. It went right on," she said, questioning what I had been doing all night in the yard.

I have plans to mow the grass this weekend. I have read the instructions about how to get the clippings out of the bag.

If I have difficulty, I plan to rip the bag from its "assembly frame" and purchase a rake.